

# Cecilia Ergueta to Represent Delaware in 2017 Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington



*2017 Delaware  
Poetry Out Loud  
State Champion,  
Cecilia Ergueta*

From a competitive field of 13 Delaware high school students, Cecilia Ergueta, a junior from Wilmington Friends School, earned the title of 2017 Poetry Out Loud Delaware State Champion at the state finals held in Smyrna, Del. on Feb. 28. The first runner-up was Shalyn Littlejohn from Hodgson Vo-Tech High School and the second runner-up was Sam McGarvey from Tall Oaks Classical High School.

Ergueta's final recitation, "The True-Blue American" by Delmore Schwartz, earned her high marks with the judges. The full poem can be found on the Poetry Foundation's [website](#).

For her winning presentation, Ergueta will receive \$200 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington with a chaperone to compete at the national championship on April 25-26. Wilmington Friends School will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry materials. Shalyn Littlejohn, the first runner-up will receive \$100, and Hodgson Vo-Tech High School will receive \$200 for its school library.

The Poetry Out Loud state competition, sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.

To learn more about the State Finalists and for hi-res photos from the event, please see our page [here](#).



**Top Row:** Nick Thompson, Mollie Russell, Ryan Washington **Middle Row:** Shannon Murray, Cecilia Ergueta, Jane Krukiel **Bottom Row:** Andrew Dingwall, Natalie Nwanekwu, Shalyn Littlejohn, Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, Tania Laurent, Glynnis Leach, Sam McGarvey **Not Pictured:** Carly Lepore **Photo Credit:** Kathleen Buckalew

### **About Poetry Out Loud**

The Delaware Division of the Arts sponsors the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest program in Delaware schools and the state finals. Competition begins at the classroom level in the fall and culminates with the state finals each spring. Twenty schools and over 2,000 Delaware students participated in the Poetry Out Loud program in the current academic year. The Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest competition is presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. For more details about the partnership and program, see the program overview [here](#).

### **About the Delaware Division of the Arts**

The Delaware Division of the Arts is an agency of the State of Delaware. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Division administers grants and programs that support arts programming, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life. Funding for Division programs is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For more information about the Delaware Division of the Arts, visit [artsdel.org](http://artsdel.org) or call 302-577-8278.

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